

Sunday Liturgy of the Word

@ Home

GATHER

- Prepare by tidying the room, finding a Bible and crucifix and lighting a candle as a reminder of God's presence.
- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise, and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord.
- Make the sign of the cross.
- Sing/listen to '[I am the Bread of Life](#)' or '[Be with me Lord](#)'.

PRAY FOR MERCY

For the times when we have not loved God as God loves us.
Lord, have mercy.

For the times when we have not forgiven as God forgives us.
Christ, have mercy.

For the times when we have not been thankful for all God's gifts.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting. *Amen.*

READ (Visit universalis.com for readings at Mass.)

First reading Ezekiel 37:12–14

Responsorial psalm Psalm 129(130)

*R. With the Lord there is mercy,
and fullness of redemption.*

Second reading Romans 8:8–11

Gospel acclamation John 11:25, 26
*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.*

GOSPEL

Mary and Martha sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were

some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

—John 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33–45

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REFLECT (See also melbournecatholic.org.au/len.)

For adults

The raising of Lazarus has all the elements of a gripping scene: mourners gathered, sisters in grief, Jesus' late arrival, a faith dialogue and the powerful word of God. As always, Jesus is central to the action, and all the characters, not just Martha, are challenged by his message: 'I am the resurrection and the life.' His loud cry to Lazarus—'Come out!'—echoes the voice of the Creator giving life to all things.

- What situations or attitudes is Jesus calling us to 'come out' of? How can we help to 'unbind' and 'let free' some people we know this week?

For children

Jesus listens to his friends, cries with them and turns their sadness to joy. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

- I wonder how we can bring new life or hope this week?

PRAY

The Creed ... For ourselves, the world and the church

Loving Father, we pray for our leaders. May they be graced with wisdom and compassion, following the example set by Jesus of care and concern for all people. Lord hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who feel anxious or overwhelmed. May we remember that even in the darkness of the tomb, life rises up. Lord hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Take a moment to offer your own prayers to God ...

Our Father ... The blessing

May God bless and keep us; may God's face shine on us; may God be kind to us and give us peace.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.